

Safety On The Road

Everyone Is A Pedestrian

You may spend most of your waking hours behind the wheel, but everyone is a pedestrian occasionally. Pedestrian safety is a survival skill, especially for persons who find themselves around loading areas, vehicle repair facilities, construction sites and other places where there are moving vehicles.

Here are some reminders about pedestrian safety on the street and in work areas:

- Be aware of your surroundings and alert to hazards when walking in or near any traffic areas – on the street, in parking lots and in loading yards.
 - Know and obey traffic controls, signs and signals. Stay in pedestrian lanes when walking around loading docks and parking areas.
 - Use your sense of hearing too. Listen for backup alarms – but do not rely on them.
 - Stand on the curb waiting to cross; do not stand on the roadway. Look all directions before stepping off the curb. Look to the left and the right and again to the left.
- Check over your shoulder for vehicles turning from side streets.
- Cross the street at marked crosswalks or at an unmarked crosswalk at the end of the block. Do not cross between intersections.
 - Do not step out from between parked cars.
 - Never step in front of a vehicle just because there is a walk signal or a crosswalk. Never take it for granted you are safe just because you have the right-of-way. Wait until approaching drivers stop and give you the go-ahead. Use eye contact to communicate with drivers.
 - Don't count on cars stopping for you at the last moment. Wait for a long break in traffic.
 - Where there are no sidewalks, walk facing the traffic.
 - When walking with others, do not depend on them for your safety. Watch for traffic yourself. Just because someone else crosses against a light is no reason to do so yourself.
- Be aware of your physical limitations. Don't attempt to follow someone more agile if you are not sure you can make it across.

Danger for pedestrians is greatly increased at night. One study said nearly a quarter of drivers involved in pedestrian deaths heard the impact before they saw the pedestrian. Here are some additional reminders for pedestrian safety after dark:

- Wear light colored or reflective clothing when walking at night.
- Use great caution when stopped at the side of the road for a vehicle repair or flat tire – especially at night.

Be alert for vehicles as you walk beside or cross streets. Be especially careful at the side of the road if you are tending to vehicle problems. Stay out of traffic areas in loading yards. In a collision between a pedestrian and a vehicle, the pedestrian always loses.

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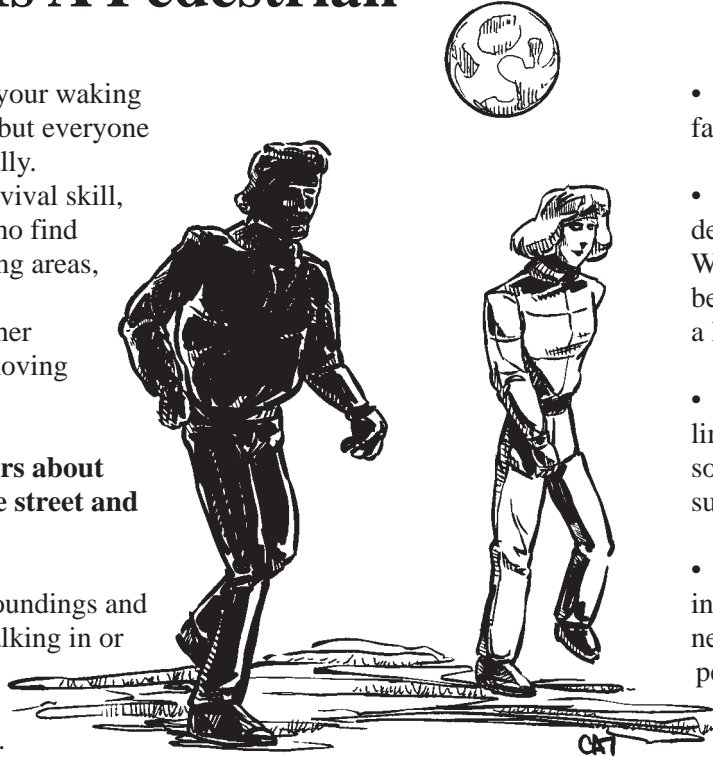
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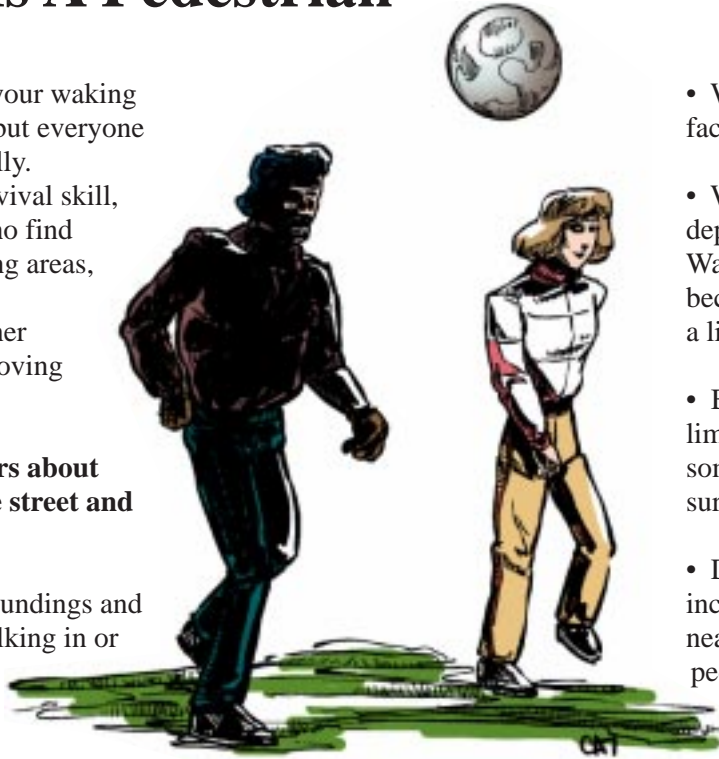
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